Newport Ranger Station Office #2005
315 North Warren Street
Newport
Pend Oreille County
Washington

HABS No. WA-174

HABS
WASH,
26-NEWP,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, CA 94102

HABS WASH, 26-NEWP, 1-

Form 10-920
(June 1983)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
Washington	Pend Oreille	Newport

HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE *(INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)*
Newport Ranger Station Office #2005

HABS NO.
WA-174

SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE
Newport Office Building #2005

COMPLETE ADDRESS *(DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)*
315 North Warren Street, Newport, WA
Approximately 40 miles north of Spokane, WA, along Highway 2

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION *(INCLUDE SOURCE)*
1940
Source: E. Gail Throop, 1979 (see attached)

ARCHITECT(S) *(INCLUDE SOURCE)*
USFS Washington Office Improvements Handbook
Source: Throop, 1979 (see attached)

SIGNIFICANCE *(ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)*
The Civilian Conservation Corps, a product of Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" politics, constructed the building in 1940 as an administrative FS office. It is an example of the rustic architectural style employed in all CCC construction of administrative sites for the USFS during the Depression.

STYLE *(IF APPROPRIATE)*
Rustic

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION *(INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)*
Concrete basement under original portion and concrete footings under the 1962 addition. Wood joists and floor. Metal roof. Windows and doors in wood surrounds.

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE *(SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)*
Original building was 40' x 26". The 1962 addition is 24' x 26'. The existing building (original plus 1962 addition) is rectangular. A floorplan sketch is attached.

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE
The siding is a combination of horizontal clapboard on the bottom half and vertical plank on the top. Eight windows on the west and wouth facades are the origianl sash windows with three horizontal panes. The building supports a medium hip roof.

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE *(DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)*
Originally there was knotty pine tongue and groove wall covering throughout. This original panelling has been covered and is only exposed over the staircase. See the attached floor plan for other details.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES
1962 - addition on the north end, 24' x 26'
?? - replacement of original shake roof with a metal roof
?? - replacement of the original windows on the front and north end

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE
Condition is excellent. The Newport District still uses the building as its main administrative office.

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE

SOURCES OF INFORMATION *(INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)*
E. Gail Throop. An Examination of Civilian Conservation Corps Construction on National Forest System Lands in the Pacific Northwest. Portland State University, 1979.
E. Gail Throop. Depression-era Building Evaluation. USFS, 1982.

COMPILER, AFFILIATION	DATE
Steve Utley, Engineer, Colville National Forest Jill Osborn, Archaeologist, Colville National Forest	May 8, 1986

ADMINISTRATIVE SITES AND STRUCTURES

Planning and Design

The Washington Office established standards and guidelines for construction and materials. In the Improvement Handbook, prepared by the Division of Engineering, preliminary planning for building developments was discussed, including material specifications. Construction schedules and work plans were outlined, so that Forest personnel in the field responsible for directing and supervising the projects would have a procedural model. Excavation, footings and foundations, wood preservation techniques, light building construction, heavy timber construction, scaffolds and towers, log construction, concrete, masonry and brick construction, roofing materials, interior finish, heating, plumbing and electrical service were defined, described and illustrated. No facet of preparation, construction or finish was omitted; preferred techniques were indicated as were preferred materials.[49]

The standards promulgated by the Washington Office and embodied in the Improvements Handbook were the basis of all construction in all Regions, being general specifications and instructions for any building procedure. Further, Forest Service policy relative to the use of wood was made explicit:

> The Forest Service in its own construction work should use wood to the fullest practicable degree. The use of other materials in lieu of wood should be considered and authorized only when their suitability and durability clearly exceed that of wood, or where the use of such substitute materials is made necessary by the general type or design of the structure, or

[49]U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Improvement Handbook, Division of Engineering (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1937), pp. i-xiv.

> where the first cost plus maintenance cost of wood would so greatly exceed the first cost plus maintenance of other materials that it cannot be justified on any demonstrational or economical basis or where the use of lumber is at variance with City, County, and State building codes.[50]

Each Regional Office was responsible for preparation of site plans, for design of individual structures, and for landscape plans.

Each Forest was responsible for the selection of sites appropriate for proposed development plans; selection criteria included the convenience to utilities, transportation, schools, and development costs in relation to topography, soil, cover and exposure.

The predominating style of architecture found in Forest Service structures built during the Depression was "rustic." This uniquely American architectural style evolved slowly, a natural outgrowth of (late) nineteenth century romanticism about nature and the western frontier. As accessories of nature, these structures employed the use of native materials to blend with the environment and the use of early pioneer and regional building techniques; architecture was closely integrated with landscape.

The earliest articulation of the relationship between architecture and its environment is found in landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing's book, Cottage Residences, published in 1842. Later, Frederick Law Olmstead, Sr., a friend and student of Downing, significantly reinforced the connection between architecture and landscape architecture in his work.[51]

[50]Ibid., p. 71.

[51]William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942, (San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977), p. 3.

In the San Francisco Bay area of California, a group of five architects including Bernard Maybeck, sought innovative ways to use natural materials. Ornamentation became unnecessary if a textural richness could be achieved by juxtaposing materials and shapes.[52]

Similar architectural theory was developed in the National Park Service as they attempted to develop non-intrusive architecture through sensitive use of native materials and architectural forms proportional to the surrounding environment. Park Service architects also experimented with new construction methods that visually imitated pioneer building techniques. By the late 1920's, eloquence in the style had been achieved, and the major public buildings erected in the National Parks during the Depression reflect that achievement.[53]

Although the Forest Service had had no particular opportunity or reason to develop a similar building program prior to the Depression, the prevailing Park Service ethic of non-intrusive architecture was found to be appropriate and adopted. Each Forest Service Regional Office undertook to design structures appropriate to climate characteristics, vegetation and forest cover, utilizing the predominant native building materials. Some Regions were able to take advantage of their traditional or native architecture while others found it necessary to develop original designs based only in part on regional prototypes. There emerged from each Region an architectural style that was distinctive to both that Region and to that period of time.

[52]Ibid., p. 5.

[53]Ibid., p. 47.

Excerpted from: Elizabeth Gail Throop, "Utterly Visionary and Chimerical: a Federal Response to the Depression: An Examination of Civilian Conservation Corps Construction on National Forest System Lands in the Pacific Northwest." Unpublished M.A. thesis, Portland State University, 1979.